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Learning Artifact Reflection

For my learning artifact assignment, I chose to present two lesson plans. My first lesson plan was on “Writing Professional Emails.” I did this lesson plan last semester, but I changed the video, readings, and added a Voice Thread instead of only discussion posts. I thought the Voice Thread assignment would be more beneficial to students because they were able to analyze a picture of an ineffective email and hear different perspectives of other students. However, some students still wanted to do a Google Doc exercise, see more videos, or see other examples of emails. To improve from last semester, I tried to do a combination of everything for this lesson plan which included videos on writing professional emails, links to readings, Voice Thread, and discussion posts where students could comment on each other’s post. I wouldn’t necessarily say nothing didn’t work, but I would try to find more examples for students of different types of effective and ineffective emails. Lastly, I still included a survey of this lesson plan to see how helpful it was to my students and I still scored in the moderately effective range, which isn’t too bad.

My second lesson plan was a social media infographic project, which was divided into three sections: Social Media Infographic-First Draft, Social Media Infographic Peer Review, and Social Media Infographic Final Submission. There were some challenges at the beginning because some of my students misinterpreted the directions of the assignment, which was to create a social media analysis of the organization they’re doing their final project on. However, some students thought they were explaining what social media was or something else, so to clarify, I sent out a blast email to my students with more specific details of the assignment to give them a better understanding. Aside from that, I think my students did well on their social media infographic peer review and better on their final submissions. I had students write a memo of their experience doing this project and many students said some of their challenges was the timing they had to create the infographic and creating the infographic itself because they thought they needed graphic design skills. Some other concerns from students were directions of the assignment, but after I sent a clarification email, students understood the assignment more. I think a major takeaway from this project was getting students to come out of their comfort zones and putting their creativity to practice. I think this project not only got students to practice something they have never done before, but now they have the knowledge and gained a new skill. I would recommend to someone that wanted to adapt this lesson plan into their own class to make sure the directions you provide in the assignments to students is as clear as possible so there won’t be any misunderstandings of the assignment. Second, I would recommend providing examples to students by showing them an example of what exactly their looking for to give them guidance on the assignment as well.